

THE VOICE OF THE ORIENT

chief place of this table were two
great
cushions of cloth of gold and satin,
on which
were other smaller ones, also satin.

"The Emperor arrived,
accompanied by a
great train of beautiful and gallant
ladies who
came in front, very richly dressed in
cloth of
gold and coloured silk wearing ropes
of pearls.

On each side of the Emperor were his
mother-

in-law and his daughter, and followed
by the
Crown Prince, Dara, and his
grandfather,

Asaf Khan. Beautiful instruments
were played
in the adjoining rooms, and two
matrons with
splendid fans kept *off* the flies when
the

Emperor was seated. Then the
hosts and

their children fell on their knees
before his

Majesty, who bade them rise, and
seated his

mother-in-law at his right hand,
calling her

mother. Most sweet voices were
heard sing-

ing of the victories of the Emperor
over his

enemies. Four lovely girls related
to Asat

Khan entered, daughters of great
lords and

fair as northern beauties. These
brought gold

vessels and satin cloths for the

washing of hands.
The banquet was served on dishes of
gold and
presented by two beautiful girls on
their knees
at the Emperor's side. After a feast
of four
hours' duration, twelve dancing
women entered,

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